



Improved Flash Bang Grenade Fact Sheet



<http://jnlwp.defense.gov>

What Is It?

The Improved Flash Bang Grenade (IFBG) is a research and development program focused on effects-based design development of a non-lethal, counter-personnel munition. The IFBG will greatly increase flash intensity, flash duration, and operator safety compared to existing flash bang grenades. The IFBG will support missions such as hostage rescue, room-clearing, and other operations in complex urban terrain.

How Does It Work?

The IFBG works by initiating and ejecting a metal powder payload that reacts with oxygen in the air to create a bright, longer duration flash and bang. The objective is to temporarily incapacitate the target(s) with improved safety to the user and persons in the target area. In addition, the IFBG will reduce harmful environmental effects. The round itself is hand-delivered to open areas or confined spaces. Possible non-lethal configurations may include:

- Trainer rounds
- Warning flash bangs
- Temporary incapacitating flash bangs

Human Effects Testing

The Human Effects Center of Excellence at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas, is a source within the Department of Defense for non-lethal human effects expertise and is currently assessing IFBG human effects to quantify the risk of significant injury and help developers characterize and understand IFBG effects at various ranges.

A Human Effects Review Board periodically reviews human effects data for accuracy and completeness. These reviews are standard non-lethal program practices to ensure that developers program, conduct, and consider results of appropriate human effects assessments. Additionally, the board recommends operator training and safety margins to ensure operational effectiveness and mitigate injury risks.



Improved Flash Bang Grenade Prototype
Official Department of Defense Photo

System Evolution

The IFBG Program began in 2007. The current prototype represents Increment III in the development of the Special Operations Flash Bang Grenade, of interest and supported by the other Services. The goal of the program is to replace currently fielded devices with known safety hazards and limited performance.

Organizations Involved

The following organizations are involved in the IFBG program:

- Department of Defense
 - SOCOM (Lead Service)
 - U.S. Navy
 - U.S. Marine Corps
 - U.S. Air Force
 - U.S. Army
- Department of Homeland Security
 - U.S. Coast Guard

*Today's complex missions highlight
the need to equip our troops with
non-lethal weapons.*

